

READERS GUIDE

The Idaho High Level Waste and Facilities Disposition Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is composed of a Summary, Chapters 1 through 13, and appendices. The EIS structure is illustrated in Figure 1. The EIS Summary stands alone and contains all the information necessary to understand the issues dealt with in detail in the EIS.

The public comment period on the Draft EIS was from January 21, 2000 to March 20, 2000 and was extended to April 19, 2000 in response to public request. Public hearings were held in Idaho Falls, Pocatello, Twin Falls, Boise and Fort Hall, Idaho; Jackson, Wyoming; Portland, Oregon and Pasco, Washington. Changes between the Draft and Final EIS, including those made in response to public comment, are printed in ***bold italics*** where occurring with text repeated from the Draft EIS, or are identified by the header "***New Information***" at the top of each page composed of all new text as shown in Figure 2.

Changes and information added to the Final EIS resulting from public comment on the Draft EIS or from further U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and State of Idaho review include:

- DOE reorganized portions of the Final EIS. Purpose and Need for Agency Action is now presented as Chapter 1 and Background as Chapter 2. The glossary and distribution list (Appendix D and E, respectively, of the Draft EIS) are presented as Chapters 7 and 12. A new Chapter 8 lists the contents of the appendices. References were moved to Chapter 9. The list of preparers and organizational conflict of interest statements were merged as Chapter 10. The index for the Final EIS is in Chapter 13.
- Section 2.3.5 "Other Information and Technologies Reviewed" was added to address technologies and variations on alternatives proposed to DOE both during and apart from public comment.
- An additional alternative and an option have been added. They are the Direct Vitrification Alternative, which is the State of Idaho's preferred waste processing alternative, and the Steam Reforming Option. The Steam Reforming Option includes steam reforming for the treatment of liquid wastes and shipping the high-level waste calcine directly to a geologic repository without further treatment.
- Chapter 3 has been reorganized to present the State of Idaho and the DOE Preferred Alternatives.
- Section 3.3, "Alternatives Eliminated from Detailed Analysis" has been updated to review why some alternatives and technologies were not considered further by DOE.
- Discussion of Waste Incidental to Reprocessing Determination under DOE Order 435.1 has been expanded. The expanded discussion of the procedure is located in the text box on page 2-9.
- Tables 3-1 and 3-3 and Tables 3-2 and 3-5 were combined. Table 3-5 was added to summarize the impacts associated with the facility disposition alternatives evaluated in the Draft EIS as well as the State of Idaho and DOE Preferred Alternative for facility disposition.
- Chapter 4 "Affected Environment" has been updated.

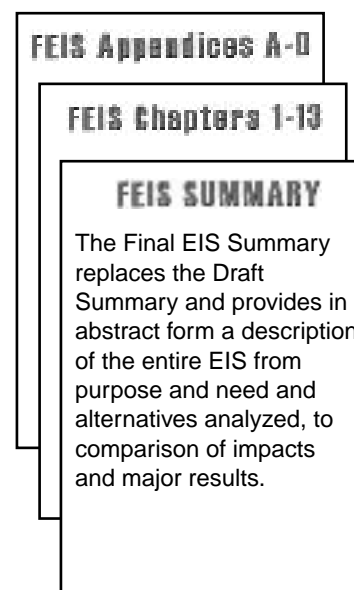


FIGURE 1

- New Information -

- "CALPUFF" modeling was conducted to analyze air quality impacts from Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) emissions on Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and Craters of the Moon National Monument. The results of this modeling are presented in Section 5.2.6 and Appendix C.2.
- A higher volume of waste would be produced from vitrification of calcine at the Hanford Site than presented in the Draft EIS analysis of the Minimum INEEL Processing Alternative (see Appendix C.8). The higher volume resulted in increases in transportation impacts, which are presented in Section 5.2.9 and Appendix C.5.
- Waste inventory information was refined including updated source term data in Appendix C.7. Corresponding changes were made in long-term facility disposition modeling (Appendix C.9) and facility accident analysis (Appendix C.4). The results of this analysis are shown in Section 5.2.14 and Tables 5.3-8, 5.3-16 and 5.3-17.

- Summaries of the public comments with responses prepared by DOE in coordination with the State of Idaho as a cooperating agency are located in Chapter 11 of this Final EIS. Copies of the written and transcribed comments are located in Appendix D.

If there are any questions concerning this EIS, the information or analysis it presents, or its availability please contact Richard Kimmel at (208) 526-5583 or by e-mail at kimmelrj@id.doe.gov.

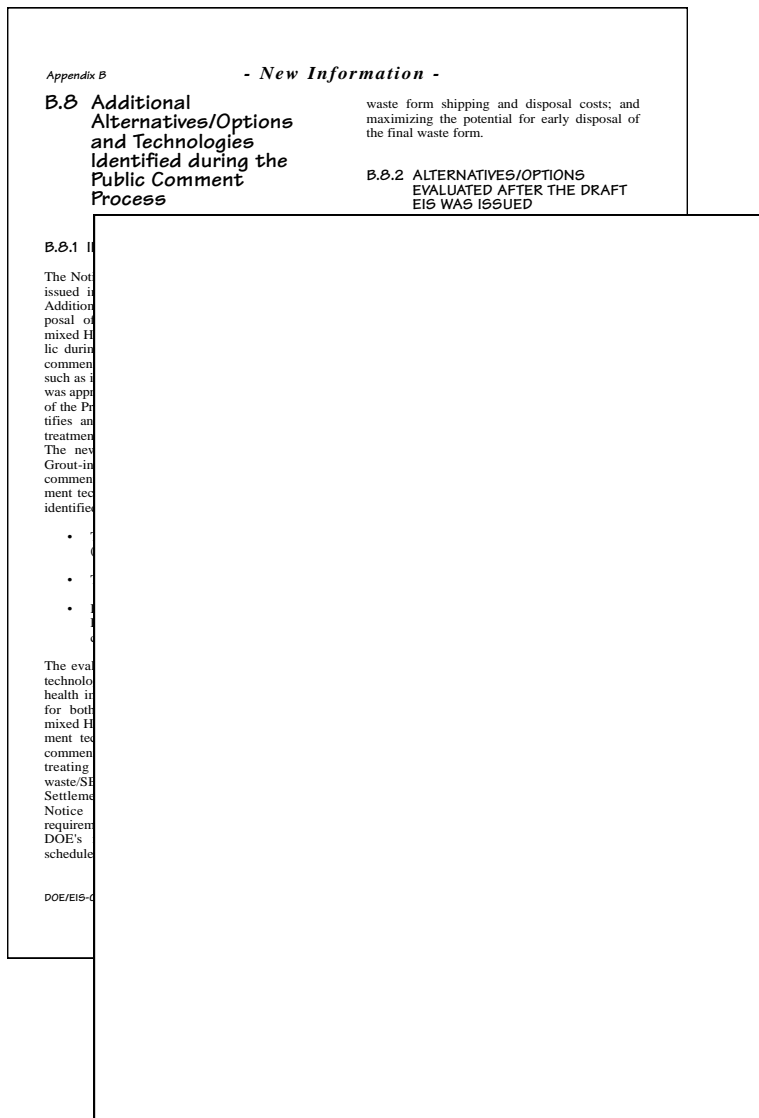


FIGURE 2